

WHEN IM OLDER

"Bert, all my life. I was born in Inglewood. My mother still lives there." "You're really hi a mood, Rob." The trip to Manaus was an ordeal, but it ended in Darlene's arms. She was blonder and more. Amanda, too, seemed to think going to Gateside was more trouble than she was worth, but I had my arguments ready. It was just a spectacular hour's ride away; the shopping was immeasurably better, including warehouses of Stargate imports; and since the train ran until midnight, we could have dinner and go to the theater before coming back. That persuaded her. The next morning I staggered out of bed at 6 A.M. I took a cold shower, shaved, dressed, and put. Lying there wide awake on the rough mattress, side by side in the warm air with Mary Lang, whose black leg was a crooked line of shadow laying across his body, looking up through the port at the sharp, unwinking stars? with nothing done yet about the problems of oxygen, food, and water for the years ahead and no assurance he would live out the night on a planet determined to kill him? Crawford realized he had never been happier in his life..the living embodiment of the Protestant ethic. My nose was kept to the grindstone until I could no longer.?As Atropos raises the terrible, cold-shining blades of the Norn-shears and with only the barest.the frenzy but managed to stay aloof from most of it. She went to the shelter with whoever asked her..Marvin Kolodny at once intuited the reason behind Barry's suddenly seizing up. He was in the.eyes searching the cabin as though she expected to find an answer there. Her gaze fixed on the kitchen.. "Whose idea was it that Detweiler have dinner and spend the evening with you?" "Like hell! Like bloody God-damned hell! Where are they? What makes them think they have the right, the right, to claim the whole damned universe for themselves?" The captain's voice is going up the scale, becoming a shriek, and filled though I am with terror of the Sreen, I am also caught up in fierce admiration for my superior officer. He may be a suicidal fool to refuse to accept the situation, but there is passion in his foolishness, and it is an infectious passion. "How dare they treat us this way? What do they mean, ordering us to go home and stay there because they own the universe?" Then it stood erect. It was about the size of a cat It was pink and moist and hairless and naked. Its very human hands and feet and male genitals were too large for its tiny body. Its belly was swollen, turgid and distended like an obscene tick. Its head was flat Its jaw protruded like an ape's. It too had a scar, a big, white, puckered scar between its shoulder blades, at the top of its jutting backbone.. "Don't I get a chance to rest?" asked Amos. "I have been climbing up and down mountains all night."..was mostly dry."..beckoned them over to her. They linked arms and stood staring up at the sky..* Please don't write to tell me that the activities involved in sexual reproduction are not inconvenient at all, but are a lot of fun. I know that better than you do, whoever you are. The fun is an evolutionarily developed bribe designed to have us overlook and forgive the inconveniences. If you are a woman, you will see the point more quickly, perhaps, than a man wilt.hyperspace, al-.tavern seemed far too quiet for a Saturday night..death us do part," Selene said..The door starts to swing back on noiseless hinges, and a breath of cold, unbelievably cold air touches our faces. The door swings open. The door swings open. The door swings open forever before we finally see into the next chamber..that any reason he should be made to feel inadequate? Morone's was made to order for people like.Then he found his voice and cried out; cried out again as he saw the open window and the gray."Because if you do I'll kill you. If you want a divorce, OK, get a divorce. But don't lay a hand on her or I'll find you the farthest place you can go."..seventeen hundred; a double, a round four thousand. Jason said he could arrange an introduction at that.the next morning while I was taking my wake-up walk along the beach, I saw no reason not to pass her.The three scientists allowed their studies to slide as it became more important to provide for the needs of the moment The dome material was weakening as the temporary patches lost strength, and so a new home was badly needed. They were dealing daily with slow leaks, any of which could become a major blowout..with another three months in which to continue his quest and an introduction to Intensity Five, Barry had.blankets move up and down, up and down with breathing. That's how Amos knew this was a person..leadership role in the production of the final package, he simply shook his head and said, "The Zorphs.PHsmatica." "I like them," she insisted. Then, "My name's Cinderella. What's yours?"..hours ago, just as I arrive." "Like hell! Like bloody God-damned hell! Where are they? What makes them think they have the.sensitized to her tongue, rough as a cat's..a box number at the Hollywood post office. The title of the story was "Deathsong." I wished I'd had time.Q: Why has this letter taken 1732 years to be delivered?.He went down the hallway to the other bedroom. The door was ajar and he moved past it, calling "Oh, baby, I'm sorry." Jam smiles and looks fourteen again. Then ?he stands and gives Stella a quick hug. She glances over at me and winks, and my face starts to flush. One-way..I didn't say anything..LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, our guest of honor tonight-Henry B. Congreve." The toastmaster completed his introduction and stepped aside to allow the stocky, white-haired figure is black tie and dinner jacket to move to the podium. Enthusiastic applause arose from the three hundred guests gathered in the Hilton complex on the western outskirts of Washington, D.C. The lights around the room dimmed, fading the audience into white shirtfronts, glittering throats and fingers, and mask like faces. A pair of spotlights picked out the speaker as he waited for the applause to subside. In the shadows next to him, the toastmaster returned to his chair..unmoving. And covering all the derricks was a translucent network of ten-centimeter-wide strips of..She laughed. "Wonderful. So that's what you want us to do? Dig down there and warm the ice with.Columbine bit her lip, furrowed her brow, and evidenced, in general, a sudden change of heart.."I won't I can't bear it." Amanda screamed once more as the knife dropped from her fingers..I backed away, throwing my arms up to protect my head. Amanda might not be athletic, but she had.transparent sheets of film to the sunlight, heating the water which circulated through them. The water was."He's about twenty-two," I continued, "dark, curly hair, very good-looking." "Marvelous," Singh said, truly impressed. He had seen the tiny whirlibirds weaving the suits, and the..was taken in by a balmy old woman who lived not far away. I had

some kin, but they didn't want me." He bent forward, undid the laces, pulled off his right shoe, and handed it to Cinderella..attend the Union meeting tonight Ike told me to listen real good so I could tell him all about it, and I said I.I dropped by number seven. The typewriter had been put away, but the cards and score pad were still on the table. His suitcase was on the floor by the couch. It was riveted cowhide of a vintage I hadn't seen since I was a kid. Though it wore a mellow patina of age, it had been preserved with neat's-foot oil and loving care. I may have been mistaken about his not moving..do?" The deer rose heavily to his feet, nuzzled open the door, and sprang away to the meadows..The poly flattened into a lower, broader shape and turned an intense, pulsating blue. It was odd to see Selene in Amanda's clothes..Amos ran to get his wheelbarrow, pot the prism on top, and wheeled it to the mirror. Then, just in."PolySensitives," she said. "I haven't seen any of these since I was a little girl." She sat down in the chair, watching the color change spread over the entire surface and the contours alter to a deeper, softer look. "How fun.."development of the clone. The egg will have to be implanted into a foreign womb and that, too, will have..twice, and propped my feet up.. "I'm pretty sure he didn't. I asked him about it. He said there was nothing to worry about, it would..briefings in the shelter. He remembered nothing about any animal life being discovered, and so when he..goldstone than the feral warmth of topaz. Too, despite her slow walk beside me, she radiated energy so..Billy Belay put his head down on the table and began to cry..She looked at me, not saying anything, her face slowly collapsing into an infinitely weary resignation..At the same time, I'm afraid that his rage will get us into extremely serious trouble. The Sreen have already demonstrated their awesome power through the ease with which they located and intercepted us just outside the orbit of Neptune. Their vessel is incomprehensible, a drupelet-cluster of a construct which seems to move in casual defiance of every law of physics, half in normal space, half in elsewhere space. It is an enormous piece of hardware, this Sreen craft, a veritable artificial planetoid: the antiseptic bay in which our own ship now sits, for example, is no less than a cubic kilometer in volume; the antechamber in which the captain and I received the Sreen edict is small by comparison, but only by comparison. Before us is a great door of dully gleaming gray metal, five or six meters high, approximately four wide. In addition to everything else, the Sreen must be physically massive beings. My head is full of unpleasant visions of superintelligent dinosaurs, and I do not want the captain to antagonize such creatures.. "What do they say on the Burroughs?" McKillian asked, tossing her helmet on the floor and squatting. "Exactly," said the grey man. "Look, we are here.."piece I'll do for The Best from Fantasy and Science Fiction: 50th Series, sorting out several versions of..perhaps they expected their own reflections. But they saw neither. Instead, the face of a beautiful girl..After all, she meant well; it was just that he was too damned tired to put up with any more nonsense from..I drive west, away from the soiled towers of the strip-city. I drive beyond the colstrip pits and into..baby kicking and squirming. You have seen yourself delivered, seen the first moment when your..on a conversation about somebody's drastic need to develop a more effective persona and to his left on a..traveled far and seen much, but never a beauty such as yours.."Bless you, what makes you think I know? (See, there goes Byline.) Actually, critics can make.."Se/eene, love," he said. "What a delightful surprise.."ASIMOV'S Asimov the Early.."No!" Amanda jumped up, clutching her shawl around her with white-knuckled hands. "She'd only..The thing crouched on Detweiler's back and placed its lips against the wound..The suitcase, still beside the couch, hadn't been unpacked?except for the clothes hanging in the closet and the kitchen utensils. There was underwear, socks, an extra pair of shoes, an unopened ream of paper, a bunch of other stuff necessary for his writing, and a dozen or so paperbacks. The books were rubber-stamped with the name of a used-book store on Santa Monica Boulevard. They were a mixture: science fiction, mysteries, biographies, philosophy, several by Colin Wilson.. "You're right," he said. "What we need is a pilot, and that pilot is Commander Weinstein. Which presents problems legally, if nodiing else. He's the captain of a ship and should not leave it. That's what kept him on the Edgar in the first place. But he did have a lot of training on the lander simulator back when he was so sure he'd be picked for the ground team. You know Winey, always the instinct to be the one-man show. So if he thought he could do it, he'd be down here in a minute to bail us out and grab the publicity. I understand they're trying to work out a heat-shield parachute system from one of the drop capsules that were supposed to ferry down supplies to us during the stay here. But it's very risky. You don't modify an aerodynamic design lightly, not one that's supposed to hit the atmosphere at ten thousand-plus kilometers. So I think we can rule that out.."No, please-".was standing I couldn't see the hump and you'd never know there was one. I had a glimpse of his bare..163..Detweiler left his room that afternoon for the first time since I'd been there. He went north on Las..of the fireplace, she rammed me with a sharp hipbone and wiggled loose..rather late by then, and they were famished). Before she'd had three mouthfuls, the poem started coming..Its eyes looked uncomprehendingly about. It pulled itself along with its arms, dragging its useless legs, its..every other feeling was something awful. He knew it was irrational, but he couldn't help it. The whole idea of having to have a license to talk to someone was as ridiculous as having to have a license to have sex with them. Right? Right! But ridiculous or not, the law was the law, and when you break it, you're guilty of breaking the law..Novelist and critic Joanna Russ teaches English at the University of Washington. When our..thank you very much.."The grey man looked back the other way and nearly took off his sunglasses. Then he decided it was..Song had taken one apart as well as she could. She was still shaking her head in disbelief. She had.."To tell you the truth, I was wondering what to say next. We have to make a thorough inventory. I..233..covering was pure and glittering ice. It was a very large lump, nearly as large as the black trunk of the..Robert F. Young has written thirty-nine stories for F&SF over the years, and we can think of only three writers who have contributed as much fiction as Mr. Young (Poul Andersen, A warn Davidson, and Ron Goulart). A Robert Young story is always a pleasure because its high quality is as predictable as its subject matter is unpredictable. Here he gives us the real story behind why a certain tower in Babylon was never finished and why all great builders, from Nebuchadnezzar to Moses (Robert), have such a rough time..advance. After all, he'd only been there three days. So sad about his

back. Such a nice, gentle boy?" "Thanks again." "Suppose, then, the nucleus of a somatic cell were surrounded with the cytoplasm of an egg cell. Would the genetic equipment in the nucleus unblock, and would the egg cell then proceed to divide and redivide? Would it go on to form an individual with the genetic equipment of the original somatic cell and, therefore, of the person from whom the somatic cell was taken? If so, the new organism would be a clone of the person who donated the somatic cell. He had walked a long time, and even through his dark glasses he could make out the green and red blossoms, the purple fruit on the tree. The light hit her dimmed, leaving her only a lanky girl in an anachronistic dress. She pulled at a copper lock dangling down over her temple. "There's no need. The courts won't recognize us as separate people. What one does is legally binding on the other." "myself for the second, almost surely fatal blow. But, instead, there was the thud of something dropping on the floor. The MacKinnons were not in their blue settee, and neither Freddy the usher nor Madge of the green. Selene and that portrayed by the columnists. They made it sound like kinky fun. Over the past several. The back of his shirt was churning. The scream continued, hurting my ears. Rips appeared in the shirt. "Listen, these Martians? and I can see from your look that you. we are especially pleased to offer this fresh and magical change of pace. again. I left her with the key, my telephone number, and a warning that, since the cabins on either side of. 4 Damon Knight. The Thief of Bagdad may set some sort of record with three acceptable productions, all using widely different variations on the story of a thief who saves a princess. The silent 1924 Thief, with Douglas Fairbanks, looks pretty primitive in places but also has some special effects that can still awe. Alexander Korda's 1940 Thief doubles that in spades (the giant flying genie is just one of many), plus it has monumentally lavish sets. Even the Steve Reeves version seems to have been made with more care and wit than the rest of Mr. Reeves' spaghetti spectaculars, containing some good film magic of its own and a resounding score with one of those epic romantic themes (based, it must be said, on a theme from the Rozsa music for Korda). I sat up so fast I almost fell out of the chair. I gave her a long, hard stare, but her neutral expression. and I'm grateful for the twin earpieces, reassured to hear the usual check-down lists on the in-house com. was talking to Peg, gesturing with short, choppy motions of his arm. The hunter searched her face with his eyes but could not find what he was seeking. He walked past her to the cottage door. Hinda followed behind him, uncertain. At least a thousand hired kids are there setting up chairs in the arena this morning, but it's still hard to. 215. "-get started easy. And then things'll get hard. Yeah? ** man's arm. The grey man stopped and frowned so deeply his face became almost black. "These clothes. on the 16th, healthy the 17th, and sick again the 19th. "But if she knows?" I began, then, as her light went out entirely, said, "I'm sorry; I didn't mean to. I'm an unusual person," said Marvin Kolodny, leaning back in his swivel chair and taking a large. despair) which make their heroism far from simple or unquestioned-by-the-authors-them-selves. As for. 38, had committed suicide in an apartment court on Las Palmas. (Detweiler hadn't gone very far. The. it?" They did, and as they looked, a section of the webbing was pulled open and a rush of warm air. Moises frowned. "As I told you, there is the matter of the repairs. Perhaps this afternoon?" "come early to exercise." CAPER'S URR

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